

Listing of the claims

1. (Currently Amended) A storage device for long handle tools, the storage device comprising:

a base panel with a top surface, a base perimeter that defines a base panel size and shape, and a bottom side arranged so that the base ~~panel~~ perimeter rests on a ground surface when the storage device is in use;

a plurality of tool handle receptacles provided in the top surface of the base panel;

a plurality of risers extending upward from the base panel;

an upper panel with a perimeter that defines an upper panel size and shape, the upper panel being supported ~~solely~~ by the risers above and spaced from the top surface of the base panel; and

a plurality of tool handle openings formed through the upper panel,

wherein the storage device includes an anti-tipping feature that is one of,

the base panel including two sides joined together at first ends thereof generally defining a rear corner and a front side spanning between second ends of the two sides, wherein the front side extends outward, away from the rear corner and beyond a linear reference extending between the second ends of the two sides,

at least one tool handle receptacle having a blind bottom terminating at a planar bottom surface, wherein the planar bottom surface is angled relative to the top surface of the base panel, or

a pattern of the plurality of tool handle openings and a pattern of the plurality of tool handle receptacles are substantially the same, wherein the pattern of the plurality of tool handle receptacles is forwardly offset relative to the pattern of the plurality of tool handle openings and from the rear corner ~~any one or more of the plurality of tool handle openings, the plurality of tool handle receptacles, the upper panel, and the base panel are constructed and arranged to counteract a tipping moment on the storage device created by inverted long handled tools with a handle end received through the tool handle openings and in the tool handle receptacles.~~

2. (Currently Amended) A storage device according to claim 1, wherein each of the tool handle ~~openings~~ opening in the upper panel is positioned generally overlying a ~~corresponding one of the tool handle receptacles~~ receptacle in the base panel.

3. (Currently Amended) A storage device according to claim 1, wherein each of the tool handle ~~openings~~ opening in the upper panel is positioned directly ~~vertically~~ over a ~~corresponding one of the tool handle receptacles~~ receptacle in the base panel.

4. (Currently Amended) A storage device according to claim 1, wherein ~~one or more of the pattern of the plurality of~~ tool handle openings in the upper panel ~~are positioned generally vertically over and is~~ offset horizontally relative to a ~~corresponding one or more of the pattern of the plurality of~~ tool handle receptacles in the base panel, ~~the offset being in a direction sufficient to at least partly counteract the tipping moment.~~

5. (Currently Amended) A storage device according to claim 1, wherein a moment negating portion of the base panel is provided at least along a part of the base perimeter and extends ~~sufficiently horizontally outward to at least partly counteract the tipping moment in a direction toward the moment negating portion.~~

6. (Withdrawn) A storage device according to claim 5, wherein the base panel is generally circular and wherein the moment negating portion is provided along the entire base perimeter.

7. (Currently Amended) A storage device ~~according to claim 5, for long handled tools comprising:~~

a base panel with a top surface, a base perimeter that defines a base panel size and shape, and a bottom side arranged so that the base panel rests on a ground surface;

a plurality of tool handle receptacles provided in the top surface of the base panel;

a plurality of risers extending upward from the base panel;

an upper panel with a perimeter that defines an upper panel size and shape, the upper panel being supported by the risers above and spaced from the top surface of the base panel;

a plurality of tool handle openings formed through the upper panel; and

an inverted long handled tool partially disposed in the storage device, the long handled tool having a handle end resting in one of the plurality of tool handle receptacles, thereby creating a tipping moment on the storage device,

wherein the base panel includes a moment negating portion along at least a portion of the base perimeter and wherein the moment negating portion extends sufficiently horizontally outward to at least partly counteract the tipping moment, and

wherein the base panel size and shape are substantially identical to the upper panel size and shape, other than at the moment negating portion of the base panel and a corresponding portion of the upper panel.

8. (Original) A storage device according to claim 5, wherein the base panel size and shape and the upper panel size and shape are substantially identical.

9. (Original) A storage device according to claim 1, wherein the base panel size and shape and the upper panel size and shape are substantially identical.

10. (Currently Amended) A storage device according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the tool handle receptacles in the base panel ~~are~~ is a through opening openings.

11. (Currently Amended) A storage device according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the tool handle receptacles in the base panel terminate terminates at a blind end bottom having a planar bottom surface surfaces.

12. (Currently Amended) A storage device according to claim 11, wherein ~~each~~ the blind-end planar bottom surface is angled to urge an end of a tool handle of a long handled tool received therein toward a desired side of the receptacle to cause the long handled tool to tilt ~~in order to at least partly counteract the tipping moment.~~

13. (Original) A storage device according to claim 1, wherein the base panel and upper panel are generally triangular in shape to adapt the storage device for installation in a corner of a room.

14. (Currently Amended) A storage device according to claim 13, ~~wherein each of the base panel and the upper panel include a front facing portion and an opposite rear corner facing portion, and~~ wherein the base panel front facing portion side extends horizontally forward ~~sufficient to at least partly counteract the tipping moment.~~

15. (Currently Amended) A storage device according to claim 13, wherein at least one of the tool handle receptacles in the base panel terminate terminates at a blind end bottom having a planar bottom surface surfaces, and wherein ~~each~~ the blind-end planar bottom surface is angled to urge an end of a tool handle of a long handled tool received therein toward a side of the ~~receptacles~~ receptacle nearest the base panel front side ~~facing portion to cause the long handled tool to lean away from the base panel front side toward the opposite rear corner portion of the upper panel in order to at least partly counteract the tipping moment.~~

16. (Original) A storage device according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of risers, the base panel, and the upper panel are each formed from a plastic material.

17. (Currently Amended) A corner storage device for long ~~handles~~ handled tools, the corner storage device comprising:

a base panel having a top surface and a generally triangular ~~shape~~ shaped perimeter with a front ~~end~~ side and a back corner;

a plurality of risers extending upward from the base panel;

an upper panel supported ~~solely~~ by the risers above and spaced apart from the base panel, the upper panel having a generally triangular shape with a front ~~end~~ side and a back corner positioned corresponding relatively to the base panel front ~~end~~ side and back corner;

a plurality of tool handle openings formed through the upper panel; and

a plurality of tool handle receptacles provided in the top surface of the base panel, ~~one each positioned generally underlying a corresponding one of the tool handle openings in the upper panel,~~

wherein the base panel perimeter substantially rests on a ground surface when the corner storage device is in use,

wherein the corner storage device includes an anti-tipping feature that is one of the base panel including two sides joined together at first ends thereof generally defining a rear corner and a front side spanning between second ends of the two sides, wherein the front side extends outward, away from the rear corner and beyond a linear reference extending between the second ends of the two sides,

at least one tool handle receptacle having a blind bottom terminating at a planar bottom surface, wherein the planar bottom surface is angled relative to the top surface of the base panel, or

a pattern of the plurality of tool handle openings and a pattern of the plurality of tool handle receptacles are substantially the same, wherein the pattern of the plurality of tool handle receptacles is forwardly offset relative to the pattern of the plurality of tool handle openings and from the rear corner any one or more of the plurality of tool handle openings, the plurality of tool handle receptacles, the upper panel, and the base panel are constructed and arranged to counteract a tipping moment on the storage device created toward the respective front ends of the upper panel and base panel by inverted long handled tools with handle ends received through the tool handle openings and in the tool handle receptacles.

18. (Original) A corner storage device according to claim 17, wherein one or more of the tool handle receptacles is adapted to cause a long handled tool received therein to lean in a direction toward the back corners of the upper panel and base panel.

19. (Currently Amended) A corner storage device for long ~~handles~~ handled tools, the corner storage device comprising:

a base panel having a top surface and a generally triangular ~~shape~~ shaped perimeter with a front end and a back corner;

a plurality of risers extending upward from the base panel;

an upper panel supported by the risers above and spaced from the base panel, the upper panel having a generally triangular shape with a front end and a back corner corresponding respectively to the base panel front end and back corner;

a plurality of tool handle openings formed through the upper panel; and

a plurality of tool handle receptacles provided in the top surface of the base panel, one each positioned generally underlying a corresponding one of the tool handle openings in the upper panel, and

wherein the base panel perimeter substantially rests on a ground surface when the corner storage device is in use,

wherein one or more tool handle receptacles has a blind bottom ~~surface~~ terminating at a planar bottom surface that is angled downward toward the front end of the base panel and relative to a plane of the base panel to cause a long handled tool received therein to lean in a direction toward the back corners of the upper panel and base panel ~~in order to counteract at least part of the tipping moment created on the storage device toward the respective front ends of the upper panel and base panel by long handled tools received through the tool handle openings and in the tool handle receptacles.~~

20. (Currently Amended) A corner storage device according to claim 18, wherein the ~~one or more~~ pattern of the plurality of tool handle receptacles is horizontally offset relative to the ~~corresponding one or more of the~~ pattern of the plurality of tool handle

openings ~~in a direction~~ toward the front ~~end~~ side of the base panel ~~to cause the long handled tool therein to lean in order to counteract at least part of the tipping moment.~~

21. (Currently Amended) A corner storage device according to claim 17, wherein the front ~~end~~ side of the base panel defines a moment negating portion extending sufficiently forward relative to nearest ones of the plurality of tool handle receptacles ~~in order to counteract at least part of the tipping moment.~~

22. (Withdrawn) A corner storage device according to claim 21, wherein the size and shape of the base panel is essentially identical to the size and shape of the upper panel.

23. (Withdrawn) A corner storage device according to claim 17, wherein the size and shape of the base panel is essentially identical to the size and shape of the upper panel.

24. (Currently Amended) A corner storage device according to claim 21, wherein the front ~~end~~ side of the base panel extends further forward than ~~the~~ a front ~~end~~ side of the upper panel.